Indians in Jails in Gulf countries

7965. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of Indians languishing in jails in Gulf countries, countries-wise;

(b) what steps Government have taken for their early release;

(c) how many of them have been released during the last two years; and

(d) how many of them are expected to be released during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (c) The information is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (d) As soon as an Indian Mission/Posts comes to know about the arrest of an Indian national abroad, a request is made for seeking consular access to the Indian national under arrest. The Consular Officer from the Mission/Post concerned visits the detainee and tries to ascertain grounds and circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary the Mission takes up the matter at a higher level with the host Government for speedy and fair trial or review of sentence. Indian Mission/Post concerned also takes care to see that Indian detainees are treated fairly while in jails. The number of those expected to be released is not available with Indian Missions as the host Governments in Gulf do not inform Indian Missions about impending release of prisoners regularly.

Statement

Details of Indians languishing in Jail in Gulf Countries

Sl.No.	Name of country	Part (a) No. of Indian Prisoners	Part (c) No. of Released in last 2 years
1	Bahrain	48	Not available*
2	Iraq	1	1
3	Kuwait	57	Not available*
4	Oman	35	1
5	Qatar	169	797**
6	U.A.E.	1000(Approx).	5463**
7	Yemen	4	4
8	Saudi Arabia	The exact number and details of detainess at any given time are known as Saudi authorities do not inform the Indian Missions regularly about Indian nationals in jails. However, on the basis of communcations received from the Saudi Foreign Office, the number of persons arrested and jailed during the year 1994 is 1050. The number of persons arrested/released and deported during the year 1993 and 1994 is 13,254** and 16,547** respectively.	

N.B. * The host Government has not provided this information.

** Figures also includes the number of persons deported.